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THE FEAST OF VENGEANCE

By KIT DEALTRY.

Author of "The Fatal Kiss," "Sin of Silence," "The Cipher Skull," &c.

CHAPTER V.

ALL HANDS LOST.

Jacob Mosenkrook was standing in the hall as Dolores and her mother emerged from the lift.

"He went to them immediately," he said, "putting his hand on Dolores' shoulder. 'Well, I hope. And how's my prospective mamma, eh?'"

An undistinguishable sound came from the girl as she trained her lips into the tracery of a smile.

Mrs. Despard rose to the occasion, aware that several people had heard the greeting, and were staring curiously at them.

"We're feeling fagged out," she declared, with an hysterical little laugh, "these late nights don't suit us. Isn't it a nice day? Dolores and I are just off for our drive."

"I've forgotten my parasol," said Dolores, hesitatingly, and before the man could prevent her, she had rushed back into the lift and was borne upward.

Jacob Mosenkrook glanced at the closed lift-gate.

"You'll have to be careful," he whispered. "Dolores will give the whole show away if she looks like that."

"What has been done?" asked the woman hurriedly. "What have you done with—"

"You're forgetting," he broke in, "I said there were to be no questions—in fact, no conversation on the subject. Well, she went on, resuming her former loud tone, 'I've been fixing up things, mamma. Dolores and I will be one before another forty-eight hours are over.'"

"Good heavens!" stammered Mrs. Despard. "How—how awfully impatient you are, to be sure!"

"I've had to wait six months already," he reminded her. "Oh, by the way, mamma, I suppose you haven't heard the news yet?"

"What news?" asked the woman.

"About Sir Gavin Tregaskis," said Mrs. Despard's pale cheeks turned even paler.

"Sir Gavin Tregaskis," she repeated, her heart beating frantically.

"Yes," said Jacob Mosenkrook, casually lighting a cigar. "He's missing. That is, he didn't turn up home last night, and no one seems to have the slightest idea what's become of him. They think he may have been waylaid and robbed on the way back to Beaulieu. Anyhow, the police are already on the track. That sort of thing's quite common in these parts, they say."

Mrs. Despard's tall form swayed a little, then she pulled herself up. A woman was approaching them. It was Mrs. Lester. For her benefit she murmured a few words.

"What a strange thing!" she said. "Yes, went on Mosenkrook, 'but, of course, they'll never find him.'"

"You—you don't think so?"

"Oh, good morning!" greeted Mrs. Lester, joining them. "Are you talking about Sir Gavin? Isn't it an extraordinary thing? But I don't see why Mrs. Tregaskis, his aunt, you know, should get so alarmed and put the police on Sir Gavin's case, and remain away for a night without people jumping to such horrible conclusions. Don't you agree, Mrs. Despard?"

"Perhaps Sir Gavin wasn't the sort of man to stay away a night," stammered Mrs. Despard.

She said the first thing that came to her lips, but brave as she was, she could not entirely control her voice; and Jacob Mosenkrook frowned as he noted that Mrs. Lester's searching eyes were upon her.

"My dear Mrs. Despard," she exclaimed that lady. "You look positively ghastly! I suppose your exciting experiences of last night were too much for you?"

For an instant Mrs. Despard stood staring at her stupidly.

Mrs. Lester laughed. "I wish I knew," she said to break the bank," she said. "I'd go through it every night, willingly, and I guarantee I wouldn't look like you to-day!"

Jacob Mosenkrook laughed. "He! he!" he said. "That's good—very good!"

Mrs. Despard, too, laughed with relief. For the second time she had not known what Mrs. Lester meant.

"Oh!" she said, "I had forgotten all about it!"

"Forgotten!" repeated the other incredulously. "Dear woman! Are you made of money that you can forget the pile of notes and gold you carried home last night?"

"She's handed it all over to Dolores for her trousseau," said Mosenkrook. "Dolores is to be married to me in a few hours, Mrs. Lester, so congratulate me!"

"Then I have won a dozen pairs of gloves," said Mrs. Lester, triumphantly. "I bet a man last night that Miss Despard would marry you, and he said he was sure she wouldn't."

"So you amuse yourself by gambling on my daughter's marriage prospects," said Mrs. Despard with sudden fire.

"Oh, there are only a few of us who can afford to gamble at roulette as you do, Mrs. Despard! I bet Mrs. Lester, who has been married for years, that you would marry her, and she said she wouldn't."

"And we really must amuse ourselves somehow," said Mrs. Despard, smiling.

Then she passed on, delighted at having culled an interesting piece of news for her friends.

It was too exquisite, she thought, that the proud and exclusive Mrs. Despard should have had to accept a common creature like Jacob Mosenkrook for a son-in-law!

Mrs. Despard gave a little shiver as Mrs. Lester disappeared.

"What a detestable woman!" she muttered. "I suppose all Monte Carlo will know before long that you are to marry Dolores."

"And why not?" asked the man, smiling. "Why shouldn't all the world know?"

Mrs. Despard did not reply. She thought of Captain Aynescombe and

of the wireless message which Dolores had received.

Jacob Mosenkrook had got to be told the truth—but when, and how?

"What the deuce is keeping Dolores?" said the man impatiently. At that moment, a page came up to them.

"Miss Despard wishes me to say, madam, that she feels too ill to come down at present," he informed Mrs. Despard, "and please, madam, will you drive without her this morning?"

Mrs. Despard turned to Jacob Mosenkrook, speaking in a low, hurried voice.

"We had better leave her alone for a while," she said. "She isn't quite equal to the strain."

"Very well," he agreed unwillingly. "But she'll have to come and dine with me to-night. You can tell her when you go up. By that time she ought to feel all right."

"I'll tell her," faltered the woman. Then she added: "I think I will take

a little drive now. The air may do my head good. It aches horribly!"

She began to move to the door.

An idea flashed into the man beside her.

"I'll come with you," he said. "There are one or two things I want to say to you."

Mrs. Despard bowed silently. She dared not refuse. And soon she found herself side by side with Jacob Mosenkrook in the open motor-car which she had hired for the season, rolling swiftly along the Corniche road.

The morning was fresh and beautiful. There were many others driving beside themselves, and the woman was conscious, even in her misery, that her appearance in the car alone with her Jew, whose acquaintance with her had never been so publicly displayed before, was calling forth general criticism and remark.

Jacob Mosenkrook was delighted, and showed it.

He sat back among the soft cushions and smoked his cigar contentedly.

They drove in silence for half a mile after leaving the hotel. Then the man spoke, lowering his voice so that the chauffeur could not hear.

"I want to know a few things," he said. "I've been a good bit puzzled since you gave me that cheque yesterday, and you can enlighten me. How did you manage to get £3,500 out of Tregaskis, eh?"

"Oh, for God's sake don't begin to cross-examine me this morning," answered Mrs. Despard, hoarsely. "Have some pity. I—I can't stand it."

"Now, don't get excited," he rejoined placidly, touching her hand. "I've got a right to know everything now, you know. I'm paying a pretty

good deal for your confidence—that you can't deny!"

"Yes—but—"

"No 'buts' at all. Just tell me the truth."

She turned her head suddenly.

"Then tell me what you have done with the money!"

"Dama you!" he interrupted, his smile fading. "Are you crazy? Supposing the man heard?"

She sat back with a choking sigh. After a minute he went on.

"I'm getting you out of it, and doing all I can, but as sure as you're breathing, if you ask me another question about it, you'll do for the lot of us. Now answer me. How did you come to get that money?"

"I went to him," she answered faintly. "I said I was hard up, and—"

"Oh, come! Do you expect me to believe that? I'm not a fool! You got that cheque out of Tregaskis by a threat."

"Well," she demanded more steadily, "and what if I did? I had to get the money somehow to pay you. It was the only way to shut your mouth."

"To shut my mouth?"

"Yes. Oh, you know well enough what I mean. You threatened to tell

everyone about me, unless I paid you."

"Well, it wasn't so much on account of the money," said the man, knocking the ash from his cigar. "If you'd treated me better and given me more chance with Dolores, I'd never have mentioned the money."

"I never deceived you," said Mrs. Despard. "From the first, you knew the kind of marriage I meant Dolores to make."

"Still, there was no reason why I shouldn't have had a chance to make the girl fond of me. And when you began to treat me like dirt, and ran after the Earl-of-this and the Duke-of-that, I thought it high time some of my own kind and what you were—my duty, in fact!"

"Your duty?" he repeated in scorn. "Jacob Mosenkrook, the word duty has never been in your vocabulary!"

"Oh, come now—"

"I say, you don't know the meaning of the word. You can't dream what it is to feel as I do, to act as I have done—to commit sin after sin for the sake of the being you love and adore—I have my duty, Jacob Mosenkrook—my duty though it is costing me my soul!"

"The man cast his cigar away and pressed the tips of his fingers together as he looked at her.

Her voice had vibrated with the passion of her motherhood, but it had failed to touch him.

"All I can say is, you're a rum notion of duty," he observed. "If I had a son, I shouldn't think it my duty, for instance, to resort to blackmail!"

"Blackmail! What do you mean?" she gasped.

"What I say. Blackmail is blackmail. There aren't a dozen meanings to the word."

"Take care," said Mrs. Despard under her breath. "Take care what you say."

Mosenkrook leaned forward and looked at her with half-closed eyes.

"Do you think I'm a damned fool?" he asked. "Do you think I don't know how Tregaskis gave you that money? You had some hold on him, or course!"

She laughed wildly in his face.

"Why should Sir Gavin Tregaskis have given me money except out of pity? He lent me the £3,500 to pay my debts with."

"How long had you known him?"

"Not long—a few weeks!"

"What was the good of lying, now? How long had you known him?"

"Oh, I—I knew him years ago—when I was in Australia," she answered in despair.

"Well?"

"There's nothing else to tell you. Oh, leave me alone—leave me alone!" Jacob Mosenkrook shrugged his shoulders.

"I'll find out somehow," he said.

Mrs. Despard sat up suddenly.

"Drive back to the hotel," she called to the chauffeur.

"I'll find out somehow," repeated the Jew as the vehicle swung round.

"Do you hear? I've known from the first that there was something shady in your life, and I vowed I'd find out what it was."

"Why are you so cruel to me?" moaned the wretched woman.

"Because you've been cruel to me," he answered brutally. "Because you've treated me like dirt, in spite of all I did for you. When you came to me last April, you were penniless. You were working day and night at anything and everything to keep your daughter at boarding-school, and you were about done. Isn't it true?"

"Yes—that's true," she admitted.

"You felt you couldn't go on doing it. And so you came to me for help. I was the richest moneylender in town, and you picked me out as the man for your proposition."

"It was a fair one. I meant to keep to the bargain."

"Perhaps so, but you didn't reckon on your daughter falling in love with a penniless officer like Aynescombe."

"No, I did not!"

"And as soon as I saw how the thing was going, I decided that it was one of two things. Either I was to lose all I'd laid out, or marry the girl myself. So I decided to marry her. She was just the girl for me. I got fond of her, and the more attention I paid to her, the more you treated me. Well, yesterday was the climax. You threw the money at me—you didn't even hand it to me politely. No thanks, not a word of appreciation for all I'd done. No! I was only a dog, to be treated as such—and I swore then, my lady, I'd be even with you. Now you understand!"

Mrs. Despard said nothing. She sat back in the car, haggard and silent.

"Fate's given me a chance to avenge myself," he added, nodding slowly. "I've got it all my own way now, and the first thing I'm going to do is to marry your daughter. After that we'll see. Anyhow, whatever happens, you can do nothing. You've murdered Sir Gavin Tregaskis, and I'm the one—the only one—who can save you from hanging. So there it is in a nutshell!"

The woman closed her eyes. But one thought, one question, held her. What would Jacob Mosenkrook do, what would he say, when he knew about Dolores and Anthony Aynescombe?

Jacob Mosenkrook left Mrs. Despard before the hotel was reached. He had some shopping to do, he told her; a few trinkets he wanted to buy for his bride.

Mrs. Despard drove on, all anxious now to gain the shelter of her own room and search for some way out of the hideous maze she was in.

The thought of Dolores was agony to her.

For this, her one child, she had staked everything—and lost!

Oh, wretched failure that she was. This was all her scheming and toiling had done! It had turned the once bright, radiant girl into a woman of sorrow. It had brought tragedy into the life that should have been one long day of sunlight and joy.

She felt like a creature who had stepped into a mire, dragging her feet waded, the further she had sunk; and now there was no hope that she could ever retrace her steps.

Despair filled her. In a few hours, she supposed, all the Riviera would be ringing with the news that she had killed a man—that she, the mysterious, much-talked-of Mrs. Des-



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pard, was responsible for Sir Gavin Tregaskis's death.

Jacob Mosenkrook would not spare her. When once he knew that he had lost Dolores, there were no depths to which he would not sink to bare her shame to the world.

It did not matter that he had become an accessory after the fact. He was a clever man, a scoundrel, and a millionaire, and there was little that the three combined in one could not do.

Already the thought of suicide had entered her mind. But not even this final plunge to save Dolores would be of use, for it would not give Jacob Mosenkrook his heart's desire. And cheated out of that, he would ruin her life just the same as if her mother were alive.

No! She could see not one single ray of light. The situation was appalling and hopeless.

Arriving at the hotel, she found it impossible to get to her room. She was besieged by a crowd of effusive, chattering acquaintances.

Congratulations on her gaming triumph of last night poured into her ears.

She was obliged to answer, obliged to pull herself together and act her part to the bitter end.

But at last, as the luncheon hour drew nigh, she came to the end of her physical and mental resources.

With a hasty excuse, she escaped and hurried indoors to the lift.

As she crossed the lounge she heard an American woman with a high-pitched voice, calling out a piece of news to her husband.

"Say, Gussey, have you heard that awful thing about the Oriana?"

Mrs. Despard paused at the lift-door and looked back.

"The Oriana?" said the man, looking up from a book he was reading. "No, what about it?"

"Why," replied his wife, "haven't you read your paper yet? She went on the rocks off the French coast yesterday morning in a fog, and went to the bottom in ten minutes with every soul on board. Isn't it shocking? Four hundred lives, and not one saved!"

Mrs. Despard's heart almost stopped beating.

The Oriana was the boat from which Captain Aynescombe's wireless message had been sent.

Did this mean that Dolores' husband was dead?

pard, was responsible for Sir Gavin Tregaskis's death.

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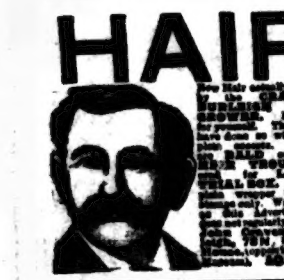
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Mrs. Elizabeth Hurt, Common Farm, Watnall, near Nottingham, says: "Nearly two years ago I began to suffer with terrible pains in my back, across my loins, and in my left side and hip. There were also urinary disorders, the secretions being unnatural, and casting a sediment. My feet and ankles used to swell, and my feet felt burning."

"I called in the doctor, who said I was 'full of stones.' I grew so bad that I was not expected to get better, and I myself thought so too. For nine months then I was confined to bed, as helpless as a child, and it was nearly twelve months before I could get about. The doctor treated me nearly all the time, but it was not until I used Doan's Backache Kidney Pills that I began to get really better. A few doses cured the pains in my back, and soon after that I must have passed a hundred stones. From that time I mended rapidly, and when I had taken half a dozen boxes of Doan's Backache Kidney Pills I was like a different woman. I enjoyed the very best of health for some months now, and all the credit goes to these splendid pills. (Signed) E. Hurt."

"Nearly a year later, Mrs. Hurt said: 'My cure has been lasting.' Doan's Backache Kidney Pills are 2s. 6d. a box, or 12s. 6d. for six boxes. Of all chemists and stores, or post free on receipt of price from Foster-McClellan Co., 8, Wells-street, Oxford-street, London, W. Be sure you get the same kind of pills as Mrs. Hurt had. A FREE SAMPLE BOX will be sent to all applicants who send 1d. stamp for postage, and mention 'The People.' (Adv.)"



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COMMENTS BY NOTABLE PASSENGERS.

THE ACTOR.

dancer, Lola Montes, the first to introduce the bolero and other English playgoers. Sir Henry told the tale at length of her liaison with the old King of Bavaria, who had infatuated for her the dancer, created her Countess Lamfeldt. I, too, can recall personal reminiscence of the lady, who had been present when she danced the first and (as it proved) the last before an English audience, at the old Haymarket Opera. Lumley's time, on my first visit, as a youngster. After Grisi and the great Lablache he and Donizetti's comic opera, "L'Inglese a Parigi," were the "quale." Lola came bounding to the scene, clicking her heels, and the stirring tilt of the bolero started the house, to whom, as well as the dancer, came for the first time, was a revelation in sheer surprise at the form of salutory grace not in hand of applause or hail of flowers was given to the lady as she danced her pas. Pausing for a second, she came, the astonished dancers, the flashing fire, and the assurance of refined disdain from the stage, and in high refusal to return to it, or to appear before an English audience again. The rumour ran, fully credited, that Lola, in wrathful exasperation, Lumley and broke his host only say that, on looking she glared fiercely at the looked like having it out with body.

As usual at this time of the alarmist reports have been about as to the health of Frau Wagner, the widow of Richard Wagner. Fortunately her son, Frid Wagner, is able to deny I suppose these rumours really owing to the advanced age of Wagner, which causes the sena

He continues his scourging of Glasier, who, by the way, is decimated by another of his critics as a mournful Melodist in kilts and a weary idealist afflicted with indolence.

BUCKLAND JUNIOR

His long legs and who have been plaited people, and by

T. mucko very much resemble the sparrow-hawk in appearance, this, together with the fact that, the hawk, it is constantly bounted b- small birds, no doubt, counts for that very old theory, biennially, and in the same way, are of a bluish-ash colour, the upper part of a bluish-ash colour, the darker wings with lighter neck breast; the lower parts are of a whitish colour with transverse dark bars; the tail is of a greenish, tipped and spotted white. It is insectivorous, like other birds, and feeds on beetles, lepidopterous

OLD IZAAK.

Dr. W. J. Simpson Ladell, V. ably presided at the sixth annual dinner of the City of London Patriotic Society at Masons' Hall Tavern, and in an admirable address expressed regret that parliament was detained Mr. F. B. Milden M.P.—their esteemed president,

MADAME. The shop

The favour with which plain coats and striped or plaid skirts been received will, I fear, make a trifle common. Marie Stuart dresses are now appearing on the necks of the latest dresses. Like everything else, they have their time and place, and must not be used indiscriminately.

min- [REDACTED]

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IN THE COURTS YESTERDAY.

STORIES TOLD TO MAGISTRATES AND CORONERS.

Chancery Division.

"VANITY FAIR" IN COURT.
Mr. P. Ogden Lawrence, K.C., applied to Justice Eve in the case of Fry v. Clinton for the appointment of a receiver and manager of "Vanity Fair" (Ltd.). Counsel said his clients held debentures as security for the balance of the purchase-money. Mr. Joseph, for the defendant company, said they only received plaintiff's affidavit the previous night. A new company was formed to purchase the business of the old company from the liquidator. They paid £3,500 in cash, and gave debentures to secure the balance of £650. There was no interest in arrears, and no interest due. An execution was put in, but it had been paid to off the charge on Monday. His lordship, in the circumstances, and on an undertaking of defendants not to deal with the assets—including a large number of original cartoons—ordered the application to stand over until Tuesday to answer plaintiff's affidavit.

Guildhall.

OUTSIDE A CITY OFFICE.
A very sad affair altogether, said the alderman at the conclusion of a case in which Edward L. Coulson, of Vassall-rd., Brixton, was summoned for using abusive language to Frank Wm. Chapman, a book-keeper of Kiverton, Blagdon-rd., New Malden, outside his place of business in Mitre-st., Aldgate. Complainant said defendant called at his office and created a disturbance. He was requested to go out, and witness followed him into the street. When outside witness called him a dirty scoundrel. Defendant had previously annoyed him. Defendant (with emotion): I only called him what he is, a dirty scoundrel. Defendant then went on to make

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST COMPLAINANT.
Respecting his wife, who, he said, was now living with him. He had tried very hard to get his wife to return to him and her children. He had written to her and called at the house to try and persuade her. Complainant, he alleged, was fined at Wimbledon for assaulting him when he tried to get her back. Complainant then pledged his word that he would give up living with his wife, but he had not. (The defendant) went down to Malden to try and persuade her to come and see her little boy, who was seriously ill, but he threatened to throw him

UNDER A TRAIN.
From time to time he begged his wife to return, and she would not. He admitted calling complainant a scoundrel, but he had never called him out of his name. Sir Thomas Crosby: If what you have stated is the truth, you have indeed had great provocation; but is not that a matter for another court? Complainant (excitedly): This is not the divorce court. Coulson came down to my house and smashed everything up. He hit me and said to me: "Defendant: I did not go to his office to see him; but Mr. Cook, his employer—to ask him if he would write to my wife and persuade her to return. This man intercepts my letters." Sir Thomas Crosby: It appeared to be a very serious affair altogether, and he should adjourn it.

Bow-street.

ALLEGED FORGERY IN FRANCE.
A well-dressed, middle-aged man, named Chas. Filmer, was taken before Sir Albert de Bunsen for extradition to France on a charge of forgery in that country. Det. Insp. Cleveland, stated that on Friday he saw prisoner in the City, and addressed him as "Mr. Filmer." Accused said that was not his name. Witness told him he was charged with forging in Paris a draft for £500 which he gave to Mr. de Lamoignon, of Finsbury House, London. Prisoner said: "It was not forged. I will tell all about it when I get to Paris." At the police station he gave the name of Chas. Filmer, and said he lived at Brookham-st., Boro', and he had in his possession four envelopes addressed to Chas. Filmer and Co., Old Trinity House, Water Lane, London, and 89 French shore coupons said to be worth from £400 to £500.—Remanded.

Caretaker and the Telegram.

In a remanded case Jno. Shield, ship's steward, living at Wyndham-rd., Brixton, who was charged with forgery, it was alleged that on March 5 Mrs. Watts, who acts as office-keeper to Mr. Squire, solicitor, Great James-st., W.C., received a telegram purporting to be sent by her employer telling her to admit Mr. James to do some writing. Shortly after the telegram was delivered a man called, and saying that he was Mr. James, was admitted to Mr. Squire's office. He left soon afterwards, and in the morning it was discovered that the visitor, whoever he was, had taken a key from a drawer, and with it opened the safe, from which he abstracted £25.—Accused was identified by Mrs. Watts as the man she admitted soon after the receipt of the telegram. The lady to whom the telegram was handed in at Gray's Inn-rd. Post Office failed to identify prisoner. She thought the telegram was handed in by a younger man.—Mr. Armstrong, for accused, said a great mistake had been made. Prisoner had borne a good character for 40 years, and it could be proved that he was at Brixton delivering circulars for a clergyman at the time he was said to have been at Mr. Squire's office.—Committed for trial.

Thames.

A TAILOR'S FLIGHT.
A young tailor, Mary Barratt, of Catherine buildings, Cartwright-st., was charged with attempting to commit suicide by jumping over Wapping bridge into the lock.—Hy. Pettit, a lighterman stated he saw the accused on Tower bridge the previous evening acting in a peculiar manner. She walked on to St. Katherine's dock

bridge, and then on to Wapping bridge. When half way on the latter she mounted the parapet and jumped into the dock. Witness blew a whistle, and a watchman got his boat out and with the assistance of witness succeeded in getting accused out of the water. When on shore, defendant said: "Let me die." Mr. Dickinson in remanding accused, complimented Mr. Pettit on his prompt action, and added that it was owing to his vigilance that the woman's life was saved.

TALE OF A STOWAWAY.
A respectable-looking youth, Leonard Herstone, was charged with being found on board the S.S. Avon-de Castle "with intent to defraud." Mr. Holman, prosecuting, said just after the ship left Delagosa Bay on Feb 24 accused asked permission to see the master with a view of working on an undertaking of defendants not to deal with the assets—including a large number of original cartoons—ordered the application to stand over until Tuesday to answer plaintiff's affidavit.

Westminster.

"MOST NOTORIOUS DOG THEIF."

Wm. Cooke, 62, whose Mongolian cast of features led to his sobriquet of "The Chinaman," was charged with stealing a brown Pomeranian dog valued at £20, the property of Miss E. Swire, of Queen's Gate. Prosecutrix said the dog was stolen from her house at South Kensington on Feb. 28, and suddenly missed it. According to the evidence of two roadmen in the employ of the Kensington Borough Council, the ladies were followed by prisoner, who decoyed the dog into a shop doorway, "whipped it with it, his great coat, and made off with it. On March 14 Det. Squires met accused at Albert Bridge, Chelsea, and took him into custody. Prisoner had a packet of white powder in his possession; he said it was only Fuller's earth.—Det. Insp. Ward formally proved 22 convictions against prisoner for dog stealing, the first one dating so far as 1867. The inspector added that Cooke was one of the most notorious dog thieves in the district, and that he was known to the most of the dog owners in the district. Cooke, who had previously defied him and got him off.—Prisoner: They charged me with taking Mr. Montagu Williams' dog, but I never had it.—Mr. Curtis Bennett marked that prisoner had already had two terms of five years' penal servitude, and it appeared he had only been a short time out of prison.—Committed for trial.

Marylebone.

STATIONMASTER'S DOWNFALL.
Mr. Plowden had before him Edwin Lewis, 35, stationmaster, of Chelwyn-rd., Highgate, who was charged with stealing £17 2s. 6d., the money of the Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Co.—Mr. W. S. L. Roberts prosecuted.—Prisoner had been stationmaster of the Belisle Park and the Chalk Farm tube stations. Part of his duty was to receive the money from the ticket inspectors twice a day, and pay it into the bank. On March 19 the clerk at Belisle Park handed prisoner £10 about mid-day, and the clerk at Chalk Farm soon afterwards handed £7 over to him. The following morning the accountant discovered that the cash was short at the two stations, amounting in the whole to £17 2s. 6d. The divisional inspector was communicated with, and he sent for prisoner at the Chalk Farm Station. Asked if he could account for the shortage in the cash, prisoner replied, "Yes, I can, sir, and I am sorry to say it is more than you know of. I have taken £10 from Chalk Farm, and £7 2s. 6d. from Chalk Farm. Asked what he had done with the money, he said he had been to Lingfield races and lost the lot.—Prisoner pleaded guilty. He was, he said, in difficulties at home owing to his wife's illness. He had also got into the hands of moneylenders. It was in these circumstances that he yielded to temptation, and went to the Lingfield races, betted, and lost all the money.—Six months' imprisonment.

Clerkenwell.

GIRL AND COMEDIAN.
A singular charge was preferred against Geo. Wm. Wallis, 30, a comedian, of stealing 2s. 6d. and 6d. from a public-house, from Eva Lorrimer.—Prosecutrix, a music-hall artist, said she went to see prisoner on Oct. 4. He had advertised for "two young ladies for a comic sketch, good parts." She saw him at his lodgings in Camden-cd., Islington. He said he wanted a £2 "premium" before introducing her partner. He represented that he was a manager of the sketch, which was to be produced at the Gaiety, Chatham. She had not sufficient money, but went to the post office accompanied by prisoner to draw £1 on account. They returned to prisoner's lodgings, when she gave him the £1, and he gave her her "part," and the "contract" was signed. The part was handed to the manager, who was who remarked that it seemed very short.—After giving prisoner the money, the girl continued, they made arrangements to meet at London Bridge Station on the following Sunday. Her purse was on the table. She picked it up, she said, and she afterwards missed 2s. 6d. He did not keep the appointment, and she found he had left his lodgings. She saw a similar advertisement in the week and communicated with the police. Prisoner was then at Camberwell New-rd. She studied the part after leaving prisoner.—Mr. D'Eyncourt (after perusing the manuscript): It seems a very senseless thing this.—Witness: Yes, it is.—Accused asked the girl why she did not at once accuse him of taking the 2s. 6d., and she said she did not like to. Wallis denied taking the half-crown, and

said the girl broke the contract by not coming to rehearsal and bringing a further 10s., they having agreed upon a 30s. premium.—Remanded.

West London.

CHARGE OF BURGLARY.
Some unusual evidence was given when Amelia Gruney, 18, porter, and Eugene Gotti, 18, pastry-man, were charged with breaking into the kitchen of a restaurant at 234, Westbourne-grove and stealing 45 lbs. of butter. The proprietress, stated that on Thursday prisoners took a bedroom at the place. Early yesterday morning she heard an unusual noise in the kitchen. She got up, dressed and went to the front door to fetch a policeman. With the latter she went up to prisoners' bedroom and there saw them sitting on their beds, half undressed. On the beds was scattered the money which they had stolen from a cash box in the kitchen. Later in the morning she discovered a jenny under the mattress of one bed.—P.C. 289 F stated that Gruney, when arrested, said she found the key of the kitchen under the stairs and put it back after opening the door. When told later that the jenny had been found he said: "I bought it in Tottenham Court-rd. I didn't expect to find the key."—Remanded.

Lambeth.

TURNED KING'S EVIDENCE.
At the instance of the Southwark Borough Council, Mary Green, 38, married, of Walworth-rd., 30, married, and Jane Rogers, 30, paper sorter, were charged, on remand, with being concerned in the management of a disorderly house at West-square, Southwark.—The prisoner Green was now, on the application of the prosecution, discharged, and called as a witness against the other defendants.—Sub-div. insp. Collins described the premises as one of the most disorderly houses the police had had to deal with in that district for some time past.—Both Dunn and Rogers contested the case, but Mr. Francis convicted them and ordered them to each pay a fine of 20s. and 42s. costs, or one month.

South-Western.

POLICE AND ALLEGED BURGLARS.
There was a strange sequel to a burglary when Arthur Boulton, described as a carpenter, living at Salisbury-rd., Westminster, was charged with being concerned in breaking into 17, Holroyd-rd., Putney, and stealing a quantity of valuable property, including two gold watches, a pair of sleeve-links, and a silver-mounted umbrella valued at £20.—Det. Sgt. Smith stated that Boulton visited Boulton's house on the previous day. Prisoner entered a bedroom and took from beneath a bed a table napkin, in which was wrapped many of the stolen articles, saying, "Here you are, Smith, this is what you want."—Clerk: He knew you?—Witness: Yes, apparently. Witness

SEARCHED THE PLACE, and found a number of pawn-tickets, several concealed behind a picture, and many relating to other robberies, various articles of jewellery, a jenny, and a bottle containing acid for testing silver. All these things witness had collected in a heap. The Boulton said: "New is no use, I may as well tell the truth. Me and another fellow, who is coming here shortly, did the job. I did not bang in the door, but went inside. I'm only minding the stick (jenny) and the other things for him. He is going to take them to the fence, and I'll get my quarter." After a time Boulton, carrying the silver-mounted umbrella, knelt at the door, and was admitted by one of the other officers. He was searched as soon as he stepped inside, and in his pockets were one of the gold watches and a letter case. He was wearing the sleeve-links, and both he and Boulton were wearing a tie belonging to prosecutor.—Remanded for other charges to be preferred.

Stratford.

JOBMASTER'S DAY OUT.
A strange story was told when Thos. Brightley, 28, a bricklayer, of Belmont Park-rd., and Wm. Reynolds, 25, a costermonger, of Soper-rd., Leyton, were charged with stealing 25 notes from Jos. Wilson, a jobmaster of Burchell-rd., Leyton.—Prosecutor stated that he met prisoners, whom he knew, on Friday in the Bakers Arms, Lea Bridge-rd. He treated them, and gave Brightley a shilling, which was spent among them. He left them then, but they "found" him later on in a public-house, and he was then "a little tipsy." They went to Stratford, and then took a cab, and were "supposed" to go to Wanstead. They went to a number of public-houses, but as he was drunk he was not served. They got into the cab again. When being driven through the Leytonstone-rd. Reynolds got hold of his arm, and Brightley took from his trousers a packet containing eight 5s. notes. He was at the time "nearly insensibly drunk," but what took place "flashed" upon him. He was driven to his house, and in the presence of his wife he asked for his money, and Brightley said: "You have

PLENTY OF THOUGHTS OF TOM-JOE. You don't want any more." In the morning, after recovering from his stupor, he went to prisoner's house and name and address so that he could tell them he was willing to give them five shillings, but he could not afford the eight of them.—Insp. Clarke said when accused by prosecutor prisoners said: "We know nothing about your notes."—Mrs. Wilson said her husband left home at 11.30 on Friday morning to go to the bank for money. He returned in a cab at half-past five with his wife. He was drunk, and his wife was bleeding. He said to her, pointing to Brightley, "Get my money from that chap and pay the cabman." She asked Brightley about the money, and he replied, "Take him indoors and give him a cup of tea. Never mind about the money." They assisted her husband into the house, and the left. They then saying a crowd was gathering.

LOST NOTES.
—Mr. Barnett Tabrum (the chair-man): There is no doubt he lost his

money, but he lost his senses first.—Prisoners denied they had the notes. Prosecutor, they said, had come to that court on Friday, hang a note, afterwards trying to change it, but the public-house would not change it. In addition, the court warrant-officer, said that on Friday prosecutor, accompanied by prisoners, went to the gaoler's door. Prosecutor tendered, from among other notes, 25 notes in order to pay a fine of 25s. and costs in respect to a conviction against a Mrs. Mead. He was very drunk, and witness told him the notes could not be taken and one come back when he was sober. All three then went away.—Remanded on bail.

West Ham.

FIFTY HOUSES STRIPPED.
As a sequel to numerous complaints of unoccupied houses having been stripped of lead, observation was kept by the police, which led to the arrest of Rtd. Hodgson, 24, of Vincent-st., Canning Town, who were charged with stealing a quantity of lead piping, and with damaging an unoccupied house at Hooper-rd., Canning Town. Early in the morning, Page was passing 72, Hooper-rd., when he heard noises and obtained assistance. When the officers were going to the rear of the premises a man came away and escaped. On entering the house the police found the premises stripped of the lead piping, which was

STACKED READY FOR REMOVAL in the kitchen. Damage had been caused to the flooring and ceiling of some of the rooms. In making a search of the neighbouring gardens they found the prisoners in an out-house. Hodgson, when charged, said: "If we had only known there were three of you we should have got away. We thought the house was surrounded by a dozen policemen." Insp. Howlett said that about 50 houses in the neighbourhood had been similarly stripped. The lead was cut at the front and back doors, and drawn right through the house.—Remanded.

Croydon.

BARBER CHARGED WITH ARSON.
A German hairdresser, named Emil Genzel, was charged with setting fire to 214, Portland-rd., South Norwood, with intent to destroy the property of Maria Kelly.—P.C. Bentley said he saw smoke issuing from the premises. He gave an alarm, which brought the fire brigade, when the staircase was found to be on fire.—Supt. Dane, of the Croydon Fire Brigade, said he found on the staircase a pile of rags, laths, paper, paraffin oil, and a glass which had contained turpentine. He gave an alarm, which brought the fire brigade, when the staircase was found to be on fire.—Supt. Dane, of the Croydon Fire Brigade, said he found on the staircase a pile of rags, laths, paper, paraffin oil, and a glass which had contained turpentine. He gave an alarm, which brought the fire brigade, when the staircase was found to be on fire.—Supt. Dane, of the Croydon Fire Brigade, said he found on the staircase a pile of rags, laths, paper, paraffin oil, and a glass which had contained turpentine. 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GAGGED AND BOUND.

OUTRAGE ON AN OLD LADY.

THE STOLEN JEWELLERY.

BURGLARS' DASTARDLY ATTACK.

A dastardly outrage on an aged lady was perpetrated yesterday at 115a, Langley-st., W.C., the private residence of Mrs. A. Isaacs, a Covent Garden salesman, the victim being Mrs. Isaacs, his wife. Mrs. Isaacs is 74 years of age and Mrs. Isaacs is about the same age. Both are very active people, despite their advanced years, and Mrs. Isaacs takes a keen interest in his business, in which he is assisted by his sons. The scene of the outrage is on the first floor, the ground floor being used by a fruiterer and salesman.

Left His Wife in Bed.
Being Saturday morning Mr. Isaacs left his house earlier than usual—namely, a little before four a.m. Mrs. Isaacs was then asleep in bed, and the other occupants—a daughter and two servants—were also asleep. The discovery of the affair was made a few minutes after six o'clock, when the bell from the bedroom, so the servants room was rung, and one of the servants, going downstairs, saw Mrs. Isaacs in a bedroom door standing wide open, which was unusual. She also noticed Mrs. Isaacs lying at the foot of the bed near the door.

The daughter was immediately informed. She found her mother bound hand and foot and gagged, and on the floor were large spots of blood. The bedclothes were in a state of disorder as if a struggle had taken place.

Police Called In.
The manager of a fruiterer's shop opposite was called in by the police and a doctor. The door of the safe, which was kept in the bedroom by the side of the bed, stood wide open with a key in the lock, and papers were strewn about the floor. In addition to being gagged and bound Mrs. Isaacs had been brutally treated by the burglars. It was evident she had been struck several extremely vicious and severe blows in the face. Her nose was bleeding and a number of the aged lady's front teeth were knocked completely out, whilst others were loosened. The face was otherwise bruised and slightly lacerated. Mrs. Isaacs was unconscious. Although recovering consciousness, Mrs. Isaacs remained in a dazed condition.

during the morning, and was unable to give an intelligible description of what had taken place. For some reason Mrs. Isaacs lay in a precarious condition, suffering from extreme shock. Over £100, besides jewellery, was taken from the safe. It is evident that the burglar or burglars were well acquainted with the habits of Mr. Isaacs, and also were cognizant of the fact that the safe was kept in the bedroom. The burglary and outrage were committed shortly after Mr. Isaacs' departure. How the burglars gained access to the house has not been definitely discovered, but the theory advanced is that they must have passed through the front door. The keys of the safe were always put at night under the pillow, and the police state that the thieves were undoubtedly aware of this fact. It is thought that they entered the room and, after brutally gagging the victim, bound her hands and rolled her on the floor.

The Stolen Jewellery.
The police description of the jewellery and other goods stolen is as follows:—
Two gold chain bracelets (one curb pattern, two diamond cluster earrings attached, and one 18ct. old fashioned, about 1 1/2 in. wide, plain gold).
One gold wrist bracelet, set 10 diamonds, safety chain, and pin attached.
Two gold miniature brooches, about 1/2 in. long (one photo of a girl, one photo of lady, surrounded by seed pearls).
One wooden box, 4 in. square.
Old-fashioned brown leather purse, with double knob fastenings, two compartments.

A Detention and a Release.
In the course of the morning the police arrested on suspicion a former employee of Mr. Isaacs. He, however, gave a satisfactory account of his movements the previous night, and was released at a late hour last night. This man, who is named Samuel Beecher, was arrested at a common lodging-house in the intimate knowledge of the movements of the householder. The police detained him for the time being. But the particulars he gave the police were verified by them, and they are quite satisfied that he was not connected with the crime in any way.

The Servant's Story.
One of the servants of the house gave a "People's" representative last night the particulars of how she saw her mistress. "It was about six o'clock this morning," she said, "that I noticed my mistress, and I immediately went to my mistress's room. She was lying half on and half off the bed, and was in a terrible condition. Her hands were bound with thick tape, and in her mouth was stuffed a patent kneecap, which Mrs. Isaacs used to wear in the daytime. Her hands were terribly bruised, and I think the men must have been trying to murder her."

DISBIDN'S OLD COTTAGE.
The quaint little cottage in the grounds of Disbidn House, Hangerhill, Faling, where the famous writer of sea songs wrote his immortal "Tom Bowling," has fallen into the hands of the housebreakers. The mansion itself is also to be pulled down, and the whole estate will soon be put up for sale. It is understood that an effort will be made by Charles Disbidn's admirers to save the building from destruction, and erect in its ruins a suitable spot as a memorial to the poet. If, however, something is not done very soon, it is more than probable, says the Central News, that the cottage will be transported in its entirety to the United States, where the name of Charles Disbidn is greatly revered. Although the cottage is over 100 years old, it has never been allowed to fall into decay.

VERY PECULIAR.

STRANGE LUNACY INQUIRY.

FINDING OF THE JURY.

A CASE THAT FAILED.

Yesterday the decision was given in a peculiar case involving the estate of Wm. H. King, an elderly retired gentleman, living at Brooklands, Garsington. The case was heard at Preston, where Commissioner Thos. Fischer, K.C., and a jury sat to inquire into Mr. King's capabilities to manage his own affairs. — Mr. Low, K.C., who represented the petitioner, Mr. Jas. Russell King, J.P., of Harrogate, said respondent for the last 55 years had been subject to epileptic fits, which affected his mind. His father left him an annuity of £1,000 per annum, which was increased to £2,500 upon his mother's death. His wife was a strong-minded woman, who managed him so efficiently that, despite his large income, he was only allowed a sovereign per week to spend. His wife's death in June last affected respondent's mental condition considerably. — Jas. Russell King said his brother, from his earliest days, suffered from epileptic fits. Their mother exercised considerable influence over respondent, but on the occasion the latter made an attempt on her life.

When His Wife Died.
— Cross-examined by Mr. Meller, K.C., witness denied that he was a "spoiled boy." — Walter Davies, chartered accountant, of Preston, said that when he endeavored to dissuade King from purchasing certain cottages he got very excited and took up a poker. On the day of his wife's death King was talking about getting married again, and danced about the house in the most extraordinary manner, singing and chanting everything he could remember. — As witness King, trustee under the will of respondent's father, deposed that King was evidently "quite off his head" on the day of his wife's death. On one occasion King came to his office took up his socks and coat. He was always talking about another wife or money.

— Mr. Neave, Maclefeld, another trustee, said the last time he saw him, King was extremely wild. He was bleeding and a number of the aged lady's front teeth were knocked completely out, whilst others were loosened. The face was otherwise bruised and slightly lacerated. Mrs. Isaacs was unconscious. Although recovering consciousness, Mrs. Isaacs remained in a dazed condition.

Giving a Demonstration.
— Dr. Smith told how he tried Mr. King's business capacity by asking him to add up some figures. The respondent, he said, took out a pencil, looked at the document a long time, and then asked, "Are these dividends?" He made no attempt, added the witness, to add up the figures. The paper, with the figures on it, was passed to the Master. It is not an easy sum, said Mr. Fischer, "and I think Mr. King ought to be confined in an asylum, but he was not capable of managing his own affairs." — Dr. Redford Pearce, superintendent of "The Retreat," a private asylum near York, stated that in an interview Mr. King told him an attendant sent from "The Retreat" had nearly strangled him. "He got up," said the witness, "seized me, and pushed me into a chair, with a view of rehearsing the incident. He repeated the story ten minutes later, with the same dramatic description. I am satisfied that the thing never happened."

Story of a Will.
— Evidence for respondent was given. — Mr. Ponsonby Tilly, jun., solicitor, said respondent had made a new will since the beginning of the present year. "Mr. King," said witness, "came to my office with the instructions. He told me that now his wife was dead he would, unless he made a new will, die intestate as regarded the bulk of his property. I read the instructions," said witness, "and I came to my own name mentioned as executor with a legacy. Then I declined to draw it. I referred him to Mr. Todd. Two or three days later Mr. Todd brought the will into my office for me to read. It had then been executed." — The Master, in summing up, pointed out that that they had conclusive evidence that Mr. King had all his life been in guiding hands. After the hearing, the consideration the jury found the respondent capable of managing himself, but not his affairs, adding that he was not dangerous to himself or others.

THE JUDGE'S QUERY.
ONE-EYED MAN IN A BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.
Yesterday, at the Birmingham Assizes, a young woman named Hannah Garrett, of King's Heath, obtained £50 damages for breach of promise of marriage from John Wm. Dowell, of Balsall Heath. The parties had known each other for years, but without giving a reason defendant suddenly broke off the engagement. It was now suggested that, as defendant had only one eye, he was unable to keep a wife, and Justice Jelfs asked if it were suggested that a one-eyed man should only pay half damages.

RESCUED COLLIER.
OBTAINS COMPENSATION FOR INJURY.
Yesterday at Merthyr County Court Samuel Barrett, whose rescue after an accident at Penalltan Pit was gallantly effected by a colliery mechanic named Everson, who decended the shaft by means of a pipe, claimed compensation for his injuries against the Powell Duffryn Colliery Co. and Messrs. Chas. Walker and Co., pit sinking contractors, and was awarded 15s. per week.

ADIRAL TO RETIRE.
Admiral Sir Day Horn Bosanquet, who has been commander-in-chief at Portsmouth for just over 12 months, completes his 65th year to-day, and will retire from the Navy under the age clause. Admiral Bosanquet will be succeeded at Portsmouth by Admiral Sir A. D. Boscawen. Admiral Bosanquet's retirement will give promotion to Capt. T. P. Walker, who has been assistant to the Admiral Commanding Coastguard and Reserve since April, 1926.

OLD-TIME ACTRESS DEAD.
Yesterday Mrs. H. Craven, widow of the late Mr. H. Craven, the dramatist, died at Eastbourne. Deceased, who was aged 81, was well-known to earlier generations of playgoers, having, as Miss Ellen Nelson, before her marriage, played in principal parts with Macready and Robson. She was the mother of Mr. Tom Craven, the actor.

MASTER AND GIRL.

POOR LAW OFFICIAL SUMMONED.

A CASE THAT FAILED.

EIGHT ARRESTS.

Considerable interest was aroused in a case heard at Petworth yesterday when Samuel Jones, Master of Wisborough Green Workhouse, was summoned by a single woman, Dinah Denyer, who alleged that he was the father of her child. — Complainant stated that the child was born on Jan. 4 at the Petworth Workhouse, and the father was Mr. Jones. He had been intimate with her on eight occasions, the first being nearly two years ago, and the last on April 16. She went on to say that she worked in the laundry at Wisborough Green Workhouse on four days during the week, and had done so for six years. She only occasionally slept in the house. On the night of April 15 last the matron, Mrs. Jones, and her sister went to a ball, and she slept in the house, at the request of the matron.

To Look After the Children.
The master was also in the house, and he came into the room on a number of occasions until one o'clock. She alleged that he was intimate with her, and she told him "he had no business to do it." The master went to bed after this, and the matron and her sister came home between two and three o'clock, but she said nothing to them as to what had taken place. She alleged that in the morning between seven and eight o'clock defendant came into her bedroom and again took advantage of her. About a month afterwards witness spoke to him about her condition, and he remarked that "it had worried him." He added, "For God's sake, don't bring my name into it, or it will mean ruin to me." He said he would mean ruin to me. He also said it would be no good.

To Run Two Homes.
When witness had to leave her situation owing to her condition, she informed the matron and her sister that "Mr. Jones was the father of the child," but the master denied this. — Mr. Bew, for the defence, cross-examined at length and complained that the defendant said, "Woman, you must be mad!" when she accused him before the matron of being the father of her child. — Mr. Bew: I believe, unfortunately, this is not your first appearance in this line? — Witness: No. — Mr. Bew: You have three illegitimate children besides this one? — Witness: Yes. — Mr. Bew: And they are all by different fathers? — Witness: Yes.

A Total Denial.
— Defendant, who had been subpoenaed as a witness by complainant, then denied the whole facts. — Mr. Bew: Where were you on the night of April 15? — Witness: At a ball with my wife. We left about eight o'clock, and got back about three in the morning. — Who was in the house on that night? — She (complainant) was, and Miss Coates (assistant matron). — You said at the next meeting of the Board of Guardians, I believe, that a serious allegation had been made against you? — Yes. — Were you ever alone in the house with this woman? — Yes. On the evening of Dec. 31 but I had a friend in with me. — The matron, Mrs. Jones, and Miss Coates, assistant matron, were each called for the defence, both stating that on the evening of April 15 defendant was present at the ball. When complainant was informed of this she said that defendant was only intimate with her on the morning of April 16. Defendant, however, who was present, denied this, saying, "You must be mad, woman, or telling a lie." — The case was dismissed.

A MOLESLEY SENSATION.
YOUNG MOTHER'S ALLEGED SERIOUS CRIME.
Yesterday a sensation was caused in East Molesley, when a number of men were seen to be dragging the river near Hampton Court Bridge, and it transpired that they were searching for the body of a baby which, it is stated, had been thrown into the river from Hampton Court Bridge a few days before by a mother. The story, which is now engaging the attention of the police at Molesley and Kingston, is a very sad one in many of its particulars. The mother of the child whose body is being sought is a general servant, about 24 years of age, and some time ago she obtained a situation at one of the pretty villas facing the Thames and close to Molesley Lock. The young woman bore an excellent character, and appeared to have given satisfaction to the lady in whose employment she was. It was known that she was keeping the company of a soldier, but no suspicion as to her conduct were entertained until Thursday last, when she mysteriously left her situation without notice and without any explanation. It was then that certain circumstances came to light which led to the discovery in this manner.

at the back of the house of evidence that the young woman had given birth to a baby in her mistress's house, and, strange to say, without her knowledge. Great care had evidently been taken to keep the matter secret, and an attempt had been made to destroy certain evidence of what had happened by burning it. Following immediately upon her discovery, the young woman's employer communicated the circumstances to the police, and a search was made for the young woman. Yesterday morning her whereabouts were discovered, and in reply to a police officer she admitted that she had given birth to a child at her late employer's house, and upon being closely pressed, confessed that she had taken the body to Hampton Court Bridge and had thrown it over the parapet into the Thames.

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RAILWAY THIEVES.

IMPORTANT POLICE REFORM ACTION.

EIGHT ARRESTS.

AN IMPORTANT REPORT.

The L. and N.W. Ry. police yesterday made eight important arrests in connection with the theft of luggage and goods while in transit. — For a long time complaints have been received from passengers of the loss of valuable property. Some have found their way into the new papers, but they have remained unrecorded except in the archives of the company. The systematic nature of the robberies and the remarkable difficulty experienced in tracing the property aroused serious suspicion among the station authorities, and Supt. Pearson and his staff set to work to discover the cause. Their investigation was so successful, we understand, that eight arrests have already been effected, all among the station employees.

Two Van-loads of Goods.
The arrested men consist of five porters and three parcels clerks. It is said that the arrests will be followed by others; and that the existence of a great conspiracy to defraud the company, through its passengers, has been revealed. Already two van-loads of stolen property recovered as a consequence of the arrests is now lying at the station. The property is valued at £2,000.

One Case in Court.
One of the arrested men was charged yesterday at Clerkenwell, and some grave allegations were then made by a detective against H. Glee, 24, clerk, Palston-st., Watford, who was charged with stealing two rugs, the property of the L. N. W. Ry. Co. The solicitor who appeared for the defendant charged preferred at present to let the case go. — The search revealed a large number of articles, including a case of old silver. — Remanded.

M.P.'S IN MOTOR SMASH.
MR. A. STANLEY PITCHED OVER A WALL.
Mr. H. McLaren, M.P., and Mr. Albert Stanley, M.P., were motoring from Stone to Stafford, when their car was wrecked at Aton. The motor ran into a stone wall, where it remained embedded. The mishap arose through the chauffeur taking the wrong turning. Mr. Stanley, who had one of his legs injured, was pitched over the embankment wall into a bolly bush. Mr. McLaren and other occupants of the car were badly shaken.

"KNIGHTS OF THE ROAD."
AN INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE ESTABLISHED.
A well-attended meeting was held at the Cannon-st. Hotel yesterday to establish an international league of commercial travellers. — Mr. Lloyd-George (President of the Board of Trade) presided, and was supported by Lord Strathcona, Sir A. K. Holt, Sir R. Parkin, and representatives of various Embassies. It was announced that messages approving of the object of the meeting had been received from Germany, Switzerland, France, Hungary, and Denmark.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE'S SPEECH.
— Mr. Lloyd-George said he was glad to find himself among commercial travellers. In his younger days he was thrown a great deal among them, and he then conceived a very high opinion of their intellectual alertness. Since he had been in politics he had always felt that he would rather have commercial travellers on his side than against him. The movement they had made was essentially important to any expenditure of a current character in connection with the railway undertaking. "It is an expense incurred daily, the payment for which is deferred, and ought to be provided for along with current working charges. A charge for renewals is essentially an element in the cost of the year's earnings, and should be determined or affected by the result of such trading. As an example of the enormous method of dealing with this charge we refer to the accounts for the year ending March 31, 1927. The surplus revenue in excess of £6,762,000, the report says, this is all proper capital expenditure, and allocated to the proper heads. To the extent that the Works Department has been employed as contractors, actual cost only has been charged to capital and no allowance made for profit to that department. This, says Mr. Lloyd-George, is a proper basis of capital charges. (In the question of depreciation for renewals, the report of the committee is essentially important to any expenditure of a current character in connection with the railway undertaking. "It is an expense incurred daily, the payment for which is deferred, and ought to be provided for along with current working charges. A charge for renewals is essentially an element in the cost of the year's earnings, and should be determined or affected by the result of such trading. As an example of the enormous method of dealing with this charge we refer to the accounts for the year ending March 31, 1927. 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POTATOES GIVEN AWAY.

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"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

PARAGRAPHS FROM ALL PARTS.

In London 2,631 births and 1,533 deaths were registered last week.

Allowing for increase of population, the births were 52 above and the deaths 63 below the average numbers in the corresponding weeks of the previous five years.

The annual death-rate from all causes, which had been 18.8, 18.8, and 17.2 per 1,000 in the preceding three weeks, was 16.7 last week.

The 1,533 deaths included 53 from measles, 14 from scarlet fever, 17 from diphtheria, 25 from whooping cough, 5 from enteric fever, and 9 from diarrhoea.

The deaths attributed directly to influenza numbered 93, having been 126, 141, and 122 in the preceding three weeks.

Different forms of violence caused 52 deaths. Of these 6 were cases of suicide, and 1 of homicide, while the remaining 45 deaths were attributed to accident or negligence.

In Greater London 4,073 births and 2,200 deaths were registered. Allowing for increase of population, these numbers are 112 above and 28 below the corresponding averages in the preceding five years.

The deaths registered last week in 76 great towns of England and Wales corresponded to an annual rate of 17.2 per 1,000 of their aggregate population, which is estimated at 16,334,352 persons in the middle of this year. In the preceding three weeks the rates had been 18.4, 17.3, and 17.4.

The Natal Parliament has been further prorogued until May 5.

LETTERS LONG JOURNEY.
The letter which was addressed to Burkhon, a letter which became attached to a newspaper in the pillar box has just reached its destination after having travelled to South Africa and back.

AN ATTRACTIVE WORKHOUSE.
There has been a rush upon the Braintree Workhouse. The attraction is the fare provided, said to be greatly superior to that which the average workhouse in Mid- Essex can obtain. Every day a meat dinner is served to the paupers.

A "LUNG" FOR SOUTHWARK.
The L.C.C. have decided to purchase Westcott, Garden, St. George's-rd., Southwark, for the sum of £2,574, the Southwark Borough Council to be responsible for its maintenance as an open space for the public for ever. The space will be a great boon in a thickly-populated neighbourhood.

Gen. Stoenel's application to the Moscow Treasury for his pension has been refused.

"I had a letter from my son who is in India to say that the war is over," explained a woman charged at Acton with being drunk.

Sir Joseph Ward, Premier of New Zealand, has invited the American basketball team to visit the Dominion when it reaches Australasia waters.

Reverend H. B. Stewart has resigned his seat on the Board of the Thames Conservancy after six years' service. Capt. A. S. Thomson, C.B., has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

A conference on employment for educated women (organised by the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women) will be held on April 2 and 3, at Canton Hall, Westminster.

The daughter of a farm bailiff, named Killok, while ceiling at Rivenham, near Witham, Essex, fell from her machine and was picked up dead.

The Prince of Wales will attend the annual St. George's Day service, to be held in the Chapel of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, St. Paul's Cathedral, on April 30.

Mrs. Isa Bell, whose running record for 150 yards is 17 sec., has issued a challenge in Melbourne to race any woman for any distance and any sum for the woman's running championship of Australia.

ENTERTAINER INJURED.
Mr. Sidney Gandy, the ventriloquist and society entertainer, is recovering from the effects of an accident which occurred while he was following the Ripley and Knaphill Harriers. His horse bolted and charged a barbed-wire fence, and the rider was thrown heavily.

DEAF AND DUMB ACTORS.
A performance, in which all the actors were deaf and dumb, has been given at the St. Saviour's Social Club, Oxford-st. The actors made great use of facial display and gesticulations, and their fingers moved, as they delivered the "dialogue," with marvellous quickness.

MILKMAN'S LUCK.
A milkman on his way into Versailles saw a bag on the top of a garden wall surrounding an uninhabited villa. He took the bag down, and bonds of the City of Paris worth £200 fell out. He carried his treasure to the police station, and in a year and a day, if it is not claimed by the owner, the £200 will be the property of the milkman.

The City of London merchants have agreed to negotiate a loan of £50,000 for 30 years at an interest of 3½ per cent.

The Pope, in receiving Mgr. O'Riordan, the rector of the Irish College, expressed his deepest regret at the death of the Bishop of Down and Connor.

Leout. A. Carrow, aged 21, of the Royal Engineers, received fatal injuries in the Lanchester-rd., near Chatham, through the motor cycle he was riding colliding with a van.

A young Englishman visiting St. Petersburg was arrested while photographing the Winter Palace, but was released after inquiries had been made.

Good rains are reported to have fallen in Queensland, and certain parts of New South Wales, but dry weather still prevails in the Riverina district.

It is estimated that the shipments of turtles from Illinois State, where very large catches are now being made, to New York during the past three years aggregated 200,000 annually.

While the police were searching the premises of an Exeter jeweller under a warrant on suspicion of his possessing stolen property, he drank some oxalic acid, which caused his death.

As Mr. C. E. Shaw, M.P. for the Borough of Stafford, has refused to pay the education portion of the poor rate, the owners of the parish of Tetbury have directed that the family business be taken possession of for sale.

At Ashford Mrs. Parrett, aged 85, living alone in a small cottage, was suffocated by fire, which broke out in her bedroom. A candle and matches were found by her side, and the outbreak evidently occurred when the candle was being lit.

VERY NECESSARY.
Two medical men are inquiring into the state of mind of a man named Alexander H. Campbell, who resigned his position of manager of the Standard Bank of South Africa, on the ground that his salary was too large.

LEICESTER'S TOWN CLERK.
At a meeting of Leicester Town Council Mr. H. A. Pritchard, Deputy Town Clerk of Birmingham, was unanimously appointed Town Clerk of Leicester at a salary of £1,000 per annum, rising to £1,250 in three years.

KILLED BY MOTOR-BUS.
As a motor-bus was going down the Haymarket, Mrs. Hannah Arst, 62, who had been standing on a refuge, fell forward between the front and back wheels and was killed. At the inquest a verdict of accidental death was returned, and the bus driver exonerated.

At Oxford, Arthur Ed. Durley, formerly clerk in the Whytowal Post-office, charged with stealing £20, was liberated on 12 months' probation.

Four Orkney fishermen have been drowned off Halcro Head, South Ronaldshay, by their boat suddenly sinking.

The dozen of the lay clerks at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, Mr. Thomas Hunt, has died at Bath at the age of 74. He had sung in St. George's Chapel for nearly half a century.

Fifteen hundred boilermakers and machinists have gone on strike at Denver (Colorado). They have declared that the strike will extend to all the railroads in the Gould system.

At Clacknall County Court a defendant denied that he got any profit from Spiritualistic stances held at his house. Judge Edge: Are they given to you for pleasure? Defendant: We supply them for religious causes only.

Lord Stanley of Alderley has introduced into the House of Lords a Bill, with the object of making 13 the minimum age at which a child can obtain any exemption from the obligation to attend school.

It was pointed out at the meeting of the L.C.C. that, including loans now under consideration, the Borough of St. Marylebone had a municipal debt of £5,000,000, of which £2,000,000 was in respect of electric lighting.

Mrs. Roxana Pike Church, who has just died at Evanston, Illinois, acted as one of the flower-girls who greeted Lafayette, upon his visit to London to attend the laying of the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill monument.

FOUR MORE LAW COURTS.
It has now been decided that four permanent additional law courts and various offices shall be erected on the piece of ground facing St. Clement Danes Church in the Strand. There is ample space on this site for the erection of handsome and commodious courts. The plans have already been prepared.

KILLED BY PILLS.
A two-year-old boy, named James Wharby, having gone with his mother into a neighbour's house at Blackburn, rummaged about and discovered in the drawer of a sewing machine a phial of pills, 12 of which he ate under the impression they were sweets. The pills were largely composed of strychnine, and the child died soon after.

DOCTORS' VACCINATION STRIKE.
The Depwade (Norfolk) Guardians have referred to the Local Government Board the refusal of their medical officers to act as public vaccinators upon the scale of fees proposed to be allowed by the Local Government Board. A conference has been suggested between the guardians and the doctors, but the latter refused to agree to this. Meanwhile no vaccination is taking place in the district.

Hennall-st., Epping, is to be closed to vehicular traffic by the barrier on one day of the year only.

Several tons of stone fell at Cumber Quarry, near Baitash, Cornwall, killing Chas. Woods, the signalman, and Ed. Borech.

The largest bed of salt in the world is said to have been discovered at Fort McMurray, Manitoba. It is 200 feet deep, and extends for 300 miles.

A humming bird's nest containing three dead fledglings was found in a stalk of bananae which formed part of a consignment received at Kefauver.

After losing her rudder in a storm the s.s. Villa Reale, of Valencia, Spain, has been wrecked on the Spanish coast, nine of her crew of 15 being drowned.

The Russian Minister of War has sanctioned the proposed duel between Gen. Fock and Sainford, arising out of the latter's memorandum on the subject of Fort Arthur.

Inclement weather has forced Mr. O. A. Olley, the vegetarian cyclist, to abandon his attempt to break the 1,000 miles cycling record, held by W. Webb.

"Votes for women!" shouted a drunken woman in High-st., Peckham. "I do hope when it comes it will be votes for sober women," remarked the Lambeth magistrate in answering her.

The King has appointed Maj. E. H. Elliot to be Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard, Capt. H. French to be Clerk of the Cheque and Adjutant and Lieut.-col. J. C. Wray to be one of the Exons.

Forty lives have been saved from the river by a Thames boatman named Fredk. Wm. Slattery. He told the Tower Bridge magistrate that all he had ever received was a testimonial from a lady and 10s. from a lord mayor.

£52 FOR FINGER-TIP.
For the loss of the end of one of his fingers, Mr. Alderson, a sawyer, of Hatfield, has been awarded £52 damages at Watford County Court.

BOGUS FOREMEN.
In Sussex recently men have been going about imposing on landladies by getting food and lodgings on the pretence that they are foremen of telephone works. At Haywards Heath Wm. Doughty was sentenced to six months' hard labour for cases at Burgess Hill and Nottingham. Another man was remanded.

SAFETY OF NELSON'S VICTORY.
In consequence of a recent incident in Portsmouth Dockyard, when a battleship broke from her moorings, and nearly caused a disaster, Nelson's Victory has been moved, so that her moorings might be examined. If the Victory were to break apart she would run a great risk of becoming a total wreck.

Mr. R. Handham, for many years stipendiary magistrate of Manchester, died this week.

Col. L. B. Friend has been appointed to command coast defences, and has been granted the temporary rank of brigadier-general.

An old print in colours, entitled "Anglo's Heels," by P. Simon, after Sir J. Reynolds, was sold for £110 at Christie's.

At Barnstable County Court Judge Boreford declared that he could never get at the bottom of a dispute between relatives.

A blackbird has built her nest in a cottage's outhouse in Tiverton, and has laid several eggs. She takes no notice of the cottagers as they go about their work.

About 270 hands have been thrown out of employment as the result of a fire which took place at Deepdale Mill, Preston, occupied by the Deepdale Weaving Co.

Reverend Charles S. Sperry will succeed Rear-Admiral Evans in command of the United States fleet on its arrival at San Francisco. Admiral Evans being relieved at his own request on the ground of sickness.

A telegram from Victoria (British Columbia) states that an expeditionary force of the North-West Mounted Police has arrived at Dawson City, and reports a rich gold strike, which is said to have been made 60 miles east of Herschel Island.

An inquest by Mr. Schroeder at Islington on Orby Howard, aged nine months, the mother explained, in answer to a question about the Christian name, that the child was born on Derby Day, and was consequently named after the winner—Orby.

THE BISHOP'S MAT.
"I shall know it again," said the Bishop of London, presenting his hat to a red-haired urchin on entering St. Christopher's Working Boys' Club where he had a great reception. He conversed with many of the boys, especially the youngster who had charge of his hat.

MANSION BURNED DOWN.
Fire completely destroyed Haslewood, a mansion at Hinton Bridge, near Watford. The house was rented for a time by Lord Roberts on his return from the B. African campaign. The owner, the Rev. H. S. Gladstone, was to have taken up residence in a few days.

MEDAL FOR WIDOW.
A short time ago the Imperial Service Medal was awarded Mr. J. Weekes, for many years in the prison service at Dartmoor. Unfortunately, he did not live to receive it. His widow wrote to the Home Office, and she has received a reply that his Majesty had been pleased to direct the medal to be forwarded to her.

CHILD MAYOR'S FUND.
Miss Doris E. Foster, the six-year-old Mayor of Portsmouth, is busy organising a fund to endow cots in the new wards for children in the Royal Portsmouth and Gosport Hospital, to commemorate her year of office.

SCARCITY OF HOUSES.
So scarce are cottage houses in Bacup that this was an agent informed a man in quest of a working man's cottage that he had already 300 names on his books of persons seeking similar accommodation, and he had no hope of their being suited.

The four-months-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Keast, of Exeter, was suffocated by a cat lying on its face.

The Lord Mayor will preside at the annual meeting of the East London Church Fund to-morrow at the Guildhall.

The wife of a Dalton-in-Furness fruiterer named Westby has given birth to triplets at Lancaster. They are all boys, and doing well.

Baron de Ferrerries died at Cheltenham in his 84th year. He represented the borough in Parliament as a Liberal from 1880 to 1885.

H.M. sloop Shearwater has arrived at Iquique (Chili) to search the adjacent islands for any survivors of the British barque Silverhorn, which was burned off the coast last August.

The Government has intimated to Mr. R. Pearce, M.P., that they will withdraw their opposition to his Daylight Savings Bill on condition that it is referred to a Select Committee.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer will be present at a dinner to be given to Lord Swaythling by the City of London United Liberal Association and the City Liberal Club at the Hotel Cecil on April 1.

The Goldsmiths' Company have offered to Cambridge University £10,000 for the purpose of founding and endowing a readership in metallurgy, such readership to be associated with the name of the company.

Messrs. McAlpine and Sons, contractors, Glasgow, have received official information from the Admiralty that their tender for the construction of the new works at Rosyth has been accepted. The work will commence immediately.

The City Corporation has entered into an arrangement with the Postmaster-General for the provision and maintenance of a telephone service between the headquarters of the City Police and 52 call-points within the one square mile.

VACCINATION BEFORE TENANCY.
In the future no person will be accepted or continued as a tenant of the City of Westminster workmen's dwellings if the members of the family, having reached the age of six months, have not been vaccinated.

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NEXT WEEK, "SING, MY LADS, YEAVE HO!" SUNG BY WILKIE BARD.

ON A VANGUARD.

SUNG by MISS SYBIL ARUNDALE.

This Song may be sung in public without Fee or Licence, except at Theatres or Music Halls.

(COPYRIGHT.)

Written and Composed by CLAUDE ARUNDALE.

Key A2. Tempo di Valse.

Some of us ride in a car - riage, Of guard O'er course, you have heard of such per - fumes As

Some on a train or a like, And those who have plen - ty of mon - cy Can an - y - thing else you will find? It's got such a cu - ri - ous fan - cy, And

ride in what - ev - er they like, We've heard of the pleasures of tram - cars, Of bal - con - y chang - ing its mind, You hear a ter - rific ex - plo - sion, But But they've late - ly dis - cov - er'd a per - fume, That

loos - ing, and good - ness knows what, But if you've no cash, and you're out on the mash, A what hap - pens next is a bit - tle, Your girl throws her arm round your neck in a - lar - ny, And it's a dose - ens that ev - ry - one knows, A pen - ny's the cost, and your mon - ey's not lost - It's the

Vanguard's the best of the lot, On a Van - guard, on a Van - guard, You on - ly pen - ny time, 1 & 3 On a Van - guard, on a Van - guard, You seen - it - est scent on this earth, 3. On a Van - guard, on a Van - guard, You

take your girl out for a ride, On a Van - guard, on a Van - guard, Of fran - tio - lly gap for your breath, On a Van - guard, on a Van - guard, Of

course, you have all of you tried, You got a back - seat, and it's real - ly a treat, For there's strug - gle with life and with death, It puffs and it smokes, and the pas - sen - ger chokes, Tho' in

no one to kick up a fuss, And you spoon all the while in a love - ly style On the splash - ing, vain he may kick up a fuss, And the amo - ky o - zone ain't all Rimmel, you'll down, From the squak - ing,

dash - ing, boat - when you're mash - ing, Mo - tor, the Van - guard bus, On a bus, On a creak - ing, old i - ron leak - ing, Mo - tor, the Van - guard bus, On a bus, On a

A NOBLE WOMAN.

THE CITY AND MISS NIGHTINGALE.

AFTER FIFTY YEARS.

It is a great tribute to the enduring fame of Miss Florence Nightingale that 50 years after the completion of her heroic work she has been presented with the freedom of the City of London. As is well known, owing to advanced age—Miss Nightingale is 85—and indifferent state of health, the recipient of the honour was unable to attend at the Guildhall in person, and she was represented by her nearest relative, Mr. L. H. Shore, Nightingale, Esq., who is well known to the public as the author of the book "The Nightingales." It is also common knowledge that, with that thought for others which has characterised the whole of her career, Miss Nightingale had requested the corporation of the City to divide between two charitable institutions the 1000s. of a golden guinea. A brilliant company assembled in the Council Chamber, and in presenting to Mr. Nightingale, as representing Miss Nightingale, the coveted containing the resolution conferring the freedom, Sir J. Dimsdale, the chamberlain, said that the corporation of London thus proclaimed for all time their admiration of the labours and lofty aims of our country's noblest characters in our country's history, whom posterity—like with ourselves—would ever be proud to claim as one of Britain's daughters. (Applause.) After referring with regret to the long "unexplained omission" which had resulted in the freedom of the City not being conferred on Miss Nightingale half a century ago, the speaker said he could not conceive a more fascinating and engrossing theme to dwell upon than the career of this patriot.

The Call to Duty. He then briefly traced her life's history until the time when, during the terrible suffering of the troops in the Crimea, Sir W. H. Russell asked:—Are there no devoted women among us able and willing to go forth to minister to the sick and suffering soldiers of the East in the hospital at Scutari? Are none of the daughters of England at this extreme hour of need ready for such a work of mercy? Within a week Miss Nightingale, with 38 chosen fellow workers, left London for Scutari. Time would not permit him to follow in detail the sublime work and actions of Miss Nightingale at this period of her life. For days she was at her post of duty 20 hours in the 24. Cholera, dysentery, sickness—the wounded and dying were her companions by night and day for months. Some of the Angel Band fell at their posts of duty and won the martyr's crown. Miss Nightingale herself—the Lady Chief—was struck down with fever, and for days hovered between life and death. She would live in the hearts of coming generations as an example of true nobility of character, of utter forgetfulness of self. (Applause.)—Mr.

MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.
(London Stereoscopic Co.)

Nightingale, on behalf of Miss Nightingale, accepted the coveted containing the resolution, and thanked the corporation.

The Nightingale Casket. A scroll on the casket presented to Miss Florence Nightingale referred to her "generosity in establishing the Nightingale Homes at St. Thomas's and King's College Hospitals, with the £50,000 granted to her by Parliament" for her services during the Crimean war. Mrs. Sarah A. Tooley declared in "The Times" that the statement that the £50,000 was granted by Parliament is absolutely wrong. The money—£44,000—was, she says, a national testimonial subscribed by all classes of the community in nearly every part of the British Empire.

SUICIDE'S LETTER.

At an inquest yesterday on a Hull fish-curer named Tether, who committed suicide whilst suffering from depression, following a bad attack of influenza, the following letter from deceased to his father, mother and relatives was read:

Farewell. I have thought light of your counsel, father. You have given me a great many chances which I have not deserved. The judgment of God has come upon me at last. He hath striven with me, but I have been rebellious and unthankful. Do not think evil of my children for my great faults. I am cut off from all pleasant associations because of my sins and foolishness. Life has become a burden. I have thought of reform too late. Then followed other passages of a religious tone. It was said deceased worried himself because he was un-successful. The verdict was suicide whilst of unsound mind.

AN INQUIRY MADE.

On Body and Arms—Was not the deceased fully—completely cured by one set of Cuticura Remedies and New Recommended Cuticura to Suffering Friends.

"A few weeks before baby was born I came out with a bad rash on my chest, back, and arms, which after a little while irritated me dreadfully. I showed it to the doctor, but he said my blood was out of order, and gave me some medicine, but I did not lose the humor. Seeing a Cuticura advertisement, I bought a set of the Cuticura Remedies, and tried if it would be successful. It stopped the itching almost at once, but I only used one box of the Cuticura Ointment and one box of the Cuticura Tablets. I then used every mark of the Cuticura, and my skin cleared and bright, and stopped the hot irritation. I think that Cuticura Remedies ought to be known well, as they would save many and heavy doctor's bills if used in time.—Mrs. F. J. Smith, 74, Avenue A, New York, March 2, 1906.—(Advt.)"

A LOVE TRAGEDY.

SWEETHEARTS TAKE POISON.

FAREWELL LETTERS.

Mr. A. M. M. Forbes held an inquest at Enfield relative to the death of Hy. Rbt. Gowler, 22, a barman, 8 Ridler-rd., who died at the Enfield Cottage Hospital from the effects of poison. Florence Cook, 21, domestic servant, of Eldon-rd., Wood Green, who was in service at Winchmore Hill, is at present in the hospital. Both attempted suicide by taking poison in a gravel pit in White Webb's Park, Enfield.—Insp. Neil, of Scotland Yard, was present on behalf of the police. It was stated that on the afternoon of March 12 the following postcards were sent by the deceased man and the girl, both addressed to

MRS. BENTLEY AND LITTLE "JACKIE BROWN."
(Photo, Hulton-Deutsch)

85, Eldon-rd., Lordship-lane, Wood Green. The first, to Miss Jennie Cook, was posted at Enfield 1.30 p.m. on the 12th inst., and ran:

Dearest Jennie, I hope you will have all my clothes and boxes. Trusting you will soon forget me and my dear Harry. We have been enjoying ourselves to-day. With much love to all—
Dear Jessie for me, because I love her—
Yr. Dad.

A Final Good-bye. A letter was also addressed to Mrs. C. Gowler, 26, Ridler-rd., Baker-st., Enfield:

Dear Mother and Father,—Just a line to wish you all good-bye, as we shall never see you any more. Hoping you will forgive me for what I have done. With much love, from your unfortunate Harry and Florence.

A fourth communication from the dead man was to Mrs. C. Gowler:

Dear Mother, Give all my things to Arthur, hoping they will do him a bit of good.—Love to all. Harry. P.S.—Happy days. I am enjoying myself. All my love, Harry and Florence. Enfield, wife of a pensioner, gave evidence of identification. Deceased was barman at The Owl, Silver-st., Edmonton. She last saw him alive on Feb. 19 at her home, when he was in good health and spirits. On the afternoon of March 12 she thought something had happened, as she received the two postcards mentioned. On two occasions her son brought the girl home and he introduced her as his young lady. Witness knew of no trouble that he had. She sent the postcards and a photo to the police station.

She Fell Inconceivable.

P.C. Hobbs stated that on the evening of the day named he was off duty at White Webb's Park, Enfield, when the girl Cook told him that a young man was lying in the park who had taken some poison. She accompanied him to the spot, where the man was discovered in a few inches of water in the gravel pit in White Webb's Park. He was unconscious, and upon lifting him up the girl said, "I don't feel to the ground poison." Witness observed two glasses near by and a leather belt. He carried deceased upon his shoulder to the stable-yard. Dr. Cook then arrived. Witness searched deceased and found two packets, labelled "Salts of lemon"; they were intact. The girl explained that they took the poison because the young man had taken too much drink on the previous day and they quarrelled.

Dr. R. Haldane Cook stated that he found the deceased semiconscious. He administered emetics, and both were taken to the hospital, where he saw them later. Deceased collapsed and passed away at 2.15 next morning. The girl was fairly well, but she would not be able to appear in court for two or three weeks.—The inquiry was adjourned.

In response to numerous requests, the management of Covent Garden Theatre have arranged to hold an extra ball on Boat Race Eve, April 3.

The estate is sworn at £76,200 of Lieut.-col. J. A. H. More-Brabazon, of Cranley-gardens, South Kensington, and Tara Hall, Co. Meath, an Indian veteran.

NEW WEST-END CLUB. The preliminary steps have just been taken to form a new West-end club, and already many people well-known in society have signified their intention of actively assisting in its promotion. Although the title has not yet been definitely decided upon it will, in all probability, be called the Anglo-American Club, and will constitute a much-needed rendezvous where visitors from the United States can congregate and meet their English friends. Negotiations have already been entered into to secure suitable premises, and it is probable that a building in Piccadilly will be secured.

MR. WINSTON'S SOUTHERN STRETS. has been used over 50 years by millions of mothers for their children while teaching with perfect success. It teaches the child, without the game, always all points, curves, wind, and in the best possible manner. Of all medicines, it is the best.

LONG LOST CHILD.

PARENTS IN A SAD DILEMMA.

MOTHER'S EXPERIMENTS.

A curious little romance is being played out at Leeds. A little boy has been taken from Watford Workhouse by a couple at Leeds named Bentley, who formerly lived at Watford, in the belief that he is their long-lost son. The boy travelled to Yorkshire in the care of a Great Northern guard. It was on March 25, 1906, during a snowstorm, that Wm. Leonard Bentley, then aged two years and a half, disappeared. On Feb. 20 last a boy between four and five, answering to some extent the description of the Bentley boy, was found crying in Bushey High-st. He said his name was Jackie Brown, and

MRS. BENTLEY AND LITTLE "JACKIE BROWN."
(Photo, Hulton-Deutsch)

he was taken to Watford Workhouse. Mr. Bentley, a foreman of works, met the little fellow at Leeds Station and took him to his home at Lower Wortley. The child at first displayed considerable shyness, although this wore off a good deal on his being coaxed with pennies and sweets.

Mother Still in Doubt. As soon as he had been given something to eat Mrs. Bentley began a great experiment. Two years ago their little son used to play with a small toy wheelbarrow. This was brought out for the youngster's inspection. He accepted it graciously, but did not betray any special mark of recognition. A wooden horse of the Watford days was also brought out, but the boy took it merely as an incident in the new life he was enjoying so much. Mrs. Bentley subsequently said that so far she was as uncertain as ever about the identity of the boy. He had not betrayed a knowledge of any former connection with the family. Still she cherished strongly the belief that the child was their son, and she was

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